

Having a ball at the Air Force Ball

The aura, the atmosphere, and the ambiance was incredible. From the moment the 1,150 guests entered the Ball Room at the MGM Grand Conference Center, there was no doubt they were in for a night of fun and memories. Each guest dressed in his or her best. All were greeted at the door by a gentleman with a deep beckoning voice “Welcome to the Air Force Ball, please enter and have a great evening”. And have a great evening they did.

On each table lay a commemorative coin inscribed with the theme “Proud Past, Glorious Future” and the date to serve as a reminder, when reflecting back years from now, of this monumental event—our Air Force’s 53rd birthday.

The walls were adorned with stars and stripes as silhouettes of jets flew over. The Tuskegee Airman and vintage uniform displays made memories come rushing back for those who had been there and wore those uniforms.

Most guests felt it was truly a night that they would never forget. “I thoroughly enjoyed the entire evening and felt the Ball conveyed everything the Air Force is built around -- professionalism, tradition and camaraderie. A total success in my eyes,” said Tech.

Sgt. Timothy Lisee, 99th Communications Squadron. “The success of the Ball shows what teamwork is all about and how the ideas of a few can come together to create something wonderful,” said Airman 1st Class Michelle Corlett, 99th Mission Support Squadron.

“The night was a very memorable occasion. Both my wife and I had a tremendous time,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Fusco, 99th Air Base Wing command chief master sergeant. “I salute all who had a part in this affair. I’m already looking forward to next year.”

Nellis’ top leader praised the well-orchestrated night. “To fashion an event like the Air Force Ball was a herculean effort. From the outstanding color guard and rifle demonstration, to the videos that tugged so hard on our hearts, to the POW/MIA ceremony. It was truly the most wonderful Air Force Ball I’ve seen in 30 years,” said Maj. Gen. L.D. Johnston, Air Warfare Center commander.

“Shall we do it again next year? You bet!”
Editor’s note: Compiled by Air Force Ball Committee.



Photos by Airmen 1st Class James May and Ashley Sorrels

Above left, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Taylor, 99th Services Squadron, and his wife, Kelly, enjoy a romantic dance during the evening. Sgt. Taylor was one of the architects of Nellis’ Air Force Ball.

Above, the Band of the Rockies-Blue Steel performed throughout the evening. Below, Nellis Honor Guard posts the colors during the opening ceremonies. Right, the capacity crowd of 1,150 enjoyed live music and danced through the night. In addition to live music, party goers were treated to a three-course meal, historical video presentation, an honor guard silent drill and a POW/MIA ceremony and presentation. Displays included a tribute to Tuskegee airmen and historical military uniforms.

